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DO 660 The Christian Doctrine of Holiness

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THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS

I. **PURPOSE:** This course is designed to provide a deeper understanding of the theological and practical aspects of the Christian doctrine of holiness. The doctrine of holiness will be considered from the perspective of biblical, historical, systematic, and practical theology. The contemporary relevance of the Wesleyan understanding of holiness for the Christian life and the practice of ministry will be stressed.

II. **OBJECTIVES:** By the end of the course the students will:

- A. Have grasped the major biblical emphases and themes in relation to the doctrine of holiness.
- B. Understand the different ways the doctrine of holiness has been interpreted throughout church history and in various theological traditions.
- C. Have grown in their understanding and appreciation for the Wesleyan doctrine of holiness.
- D. Have examined, evaluated and used a reasonable range of literature related to the study of the doctrine of Christian holiness.
- E. Have grown in their ability to lead others into a deeper experience and understanding of holiness.
- F. Have grasped the importance of the doctrine of holiness for the Christian life and the practice of ministry.
- G. Have grown in their love for God through their study of the doctrine of holiness.

III. **TEXTBOOKS** (in the order we will read them):

William Greathouse, WHOLENESS IN CHRIST

Paul Bassett & William Greathouse, EXPLORING CHRISTIAN
HOLINESS, Vol. 2.

Melvin Dieter, FIVE VIEWS OF SANCTIFICATION

Leona Frances Choy, POWERLINES: What Great Evangelicals Believed About the Holy Spirit

IV. **REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Regular and active participation in class sessions.

B. A 4-Mat Reflection on **three** of the four texts (See explanation of the 4-Mat below). The 4-Mats will be due on the designated days when we will discuss the texts in class (20%).

C. A Group Project involving a class presentation on an assigned subject related to Practical Holiness. On the first day of class Dr. Seamands will present the options for project based on the following Chart (30 %)

Natural Drives, Passions or Pleasures	Corresponding Sinful Abuses	Corresponding Spiritual Disciplines
Eating and Drinking	Gluttony or Drunkenness	Fasting and Moderation
Companionship	Co-dependency (inordinately needing to be needed)	Solitude and Community
Working	“Workaholism”/Performance Orientation	Resting, Sabbath-taking
Sex	Pornography, Adultery, Emotional Affairs, Fornication	Chastity, Abstinence, Sexual Intimacy in Marriage
Earning Money	Greed	Frugality, Tithing, Giving Alms
Speech	Slander, Lies, Gossip	Silence, Praise, Confession
Recreation, Entertainment, Play	Living for Toys, Fun and Games	Moderation, Media Fasting
Clothing	Dressing to Impress or Flaunt	Simplicity

D. A final project consisting of ONE of the following (50%):

1. A Book Review (6-8 pages) and a Sermon (6-8 pages). Here is a list of suggested books which to consider for your book review:

W.E. Sangster, THE PATH TO PERFECTION
 John L. Peters, CHRISTIAN PERFECTION AND AMERICAN
 METHODISM
 J.I. Packer, REDISCOVERING HOLINESS
 KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT
 John Gammie, HOLINESS IN ISRAEL
 Michael Brown, GO AND SIN NO MORE!
 Randy Clark, ed., POWER, HOLINESS, AND EVANGELISM
 Rudolph Otto, THE IDEA OF THE HOLY

Richard Gilbertson, THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 J. Sidlow Baxter, A NEW CALL TO HOLINESS
 HIS DEEPER WORK IN US
 R.N. Flew, THE IDEA OF PERFECTION IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
 Donald Metz, STUDIES IN BIBLICAL HOLINESS
 Peter Gillquist, DESIGNED FOR HOLINESS
 J. Baines Atkinson, THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS
 Mel-Thomas Rothwell, PREACHING HOLINESS EFFECTIVELY
 William Hulme, THE DYNAMICS OF SANCTIFICATION
 Jerry Bridges, THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS
 Thomas Cook, NEW TESTAMENT HOLINESS
 Andrew Murray, HOLY IN CHRIST
 THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST
 Richard Howard, NEWNESS OF LIFE
 Richard Taylor, EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HOLINESS, vol. 3
 Stephen Olford, THE WAY OF HOLINESS
 Alan Kreider, JOURNEY TOWARDS HOLINESS
 J.C. Ryle, HOLINESS
 V. Raymond Edman, THEY FOUND THE SECRET
 Leo Cox, JOHN WESLEY'S CONCEPT OF PERFECTION
 Dwight H. Small, THE HIGH COST OF HOLY LIVING
 John Walters, PERFECTION IN NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
 Mildred Wynkoop, A THEOLOGY OF LOVE
 Lawrence Wood, PENTECOSTAL GRACE
 Ian W. Thomas, THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST
 Richard Gilbertson, THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 George Pardington, THE CRISIS OF THE DEEPER LIFE
 John White, THE PATHWAY OF HOLINESS
 Donald Alexander, CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY: FIVE VIEWS OF
 SANCTIFICATION
 D. Michael Henderson, JOHN WESLEY'S CLASS MEETING
 Steve Deneff, WHATEVER BECAME OF HOLINESS?
 David Peterson, POSSESSED BY GOD
 Robertson McQuilkin, FREE AND FULFILLED: VICTORIOUS LIVING IN THE 21ST
 CENTURY
 David Thompson, HOLINESS FOR HURTING PEOPLE
 John Oswalt, CALLED TO BE HOLY
 Stephen Seamands, HOLINESS OF HEART AND LIFE
 Stephen Olford, THE WAY OF HOLINESS
 David Kendall, GOD'S CALL TO BE LIKE JESUS
 Dennis Kinlaw, THE MIND OF CHRIST
 Diane Leclerc, SINGLENES OF HEART: GENDER, SIN AND HOLINESS IN
 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
 Allan Coppedge, PORTRAITS OF GOD: A Biblical Theology of Holiness

Keith Drury, HOLINESS FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

In your review, after introducing the book (in terms of its purpose, context, and audience), spend 3-4 pages summarizing the content of the book and 3-4 pages evaluating the book in terms of its strengths and weaknesses.

For your sermon, choose a text directly related to the subject of holiness. Make sure that your sermon is a “biblical” sermon (i.e. a sermon which expounds the chosen text) and not merely “Christian” sermon (i.e. a sermon which is Christian in content but is only indirectly related to the chosen text).

2. Instead of the book review and the sermon, write A 12-15 page (doublespaced typed) research paper related to some aspect of holiness. Examples: "John Wesley's Understanding of Social Holiness," "Holiness in the Epistle of Hebrews," "From Entire Sanctification to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit." Include at least twelve sources in your bibliography.

V. COURSE OUTLINE

- A. The Holiness of God
- B. An Inclusive Vision of the Holy Life
- C. Some Basic Principles of Holiness
- D. The Reformed and the Wesleyan Visions of Holiness.
- E. Holiness and the Holy Spirit
- F. Practical Holiness: Helping People along the Pathway to Holiness
- G. Social holiness

4-Mat Reflections

To do the 4-Mat reflections (named for Bernice McCarthy's 4-Mat system) on the three texts, lay out your pages so that every pair of facing pages has these headings:

Left: Abstract Summary

Right: Concrete Stories/Memories
Evoked by the Item

Reflection Expressed as
Questions

Action: What I Must Do
Because of This

Here are some explanations/guidelines adapted from Dr. Donald Joy to help you get a better grasp of the four elements in the 4-Mat system.

(a) **ABSTRACT: Reader's Digest Summary.** Simply summarize the content of the assigned reading in your own words. There should be NO personal commentary or attempt to evaluate the content of the materials. Just summarize what the author says. Include as many of the key concepts and ideas as you can. Strive to be both comprehensive and intensive. Your summary should be stylistically correct, coherent and clear. The abstract should be one single-spaced page in length. Use a number number 12 typefont (nothing smaller!) for your Abstract and 1 inch margins (no less) so you can include as much as possible in your summary

Remember that meaning making requires first that you transform the reading materials into your OWN words. Effective "note taking" is more than capturing another person's words; it requires transforming a communication into your own language and symbols. Use explicit and visible QUOTE marks to identify the author's words. All other written material not clearly cited should be your own constructions and abstracted summaries of what you read.

(b) **CONCRETE: Get Vulnerable!** Describe one or two personal experiences which reading this material reminded you of. Here is your chance to be a storyteller. Tell it here in “first person,” describing action, quoting exact words you remember hearing or saying. Be as specific and concrete as you can, including who, what, when, where details. However, make sure that your personal anecdotes are clearly grounded in the concepts of the reading assignment. The “Concrete” section should not exceed half a page (Number 12 typefont on this and c and d below).

If you can connect what you are reading and hearing with what you have previously lived or observed, you will be profoundly changed by the semester. If you cannot connect the semester with past and present personal realities, you will never be able to teach or use what you are learning with any conviction and effectiveness.

(c) **REFLECTION: What questions popped up** as you read this material? Keep a rough note sheet at hand as you read so you can write them down. Then simply list three or four of them. Your questions may be critical or grounded in spontaneous curiosity or naive yearning for solutions. However, make sure they relate directly to the MATERIAL CONTENT of the reading materials NOT to the experience(s) you have just described in b. This section should take up about one fourth to a third of a page.

(d) **ACTION: So What Are You Going to Do About it , Anyway?** All ministry related learning MUST lead to acts of ministry--whether through transformation of your inner person or your acquiring of useful knowledge or skills. Here describe what you simply must DO if you keep faith with what you have now discovered as a result of reading this material. Make sure that your actions are **MAST (Measurable, Attainable, Specific and able to be accomplished within a given Time frame))** (For example, For the next three weeks, during our family devotions, I will seek to briefly and simply talk with our children about the various dimensions of God’s holiness). Do not report reflective responses (for example “I need to learn or read or pray more about holiness”). This section should comprise one fourth to one third of a page.